

**BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY  
OF THE AIR FORCE**

**AIR FORCE POLICY DIRECTIVE 10-35**

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**Operations**

**BATTLEFIELD AIRMEN**



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This directive establishes overarching policy concerning Battlefield Airmen (BA) in accordance with (IAW) HAF Mission Directive 1-54, *Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations*. Coupling the Air, Space, and Cyber domains with the Land domain are an Airman's responsibility and require specialized forces that optimize the effects of air and space power. To meet this responsibility, the Air Force recognizes the need to organize, train, and equip a force of BA capable of delivering distinctive capability and expertise in any operating environment with unequaled lethality, accuracy, responsiveness, flexibility and persistence. This directive characterizes BA capabilities and identifies responsibilities for organizing, training, and equipping BA. Ensure that all records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained IAW Air Force Manual 33-363, *Management of Records*, and disposed of IAW Air Force Records Information Management System Records Disposition Schedule. Refer recommended changes and questions about this publication to the Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR) using the AF Form 847, Recommendation for Change of Publication; route AF Forms 847 from the field through the appropriate functional chain of command. This publication applies to Air Force Reserve Command and Air National Guard units.

**SUMMARY OF CHANGES**

This publication has been completely revised and should be reviewed in its entirety. (HAF/A3) Paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2, Battlefield Airmen Core Activities and specialized capabilities, updated to comply with joint terminology.

**1. BA directly lead, control, and/or execute operational air and space power functions in the forward battlespace independent of an established airbase or its perimeter defenses.** Comprising several Air Force Specialties, BA primarily operate in the land domain removed from traditional airbase support, logistics, and sortie generation efforts. BA may be employed unilaterally or as part of an AF, joint, interagency or multinational force, to support Combatant Commander (CCDR) objectives and may operate under the most austere conditions for extended periods.

**2. The BA initiative encompasses the following specific Air Force Specialty Codes (AFSC):** Combat Rescue Officers (CRO, 13DXA), Special Tactics Officers (STO, 13CXB), Air Liaison Officers (ALO, 13LX), Pararescue (PJ, 1T2XX), Combat Control (CCT, 1C2XX), Tactical Air Control Party (TACP, 1C4XX) and Special Operations Weather Team (SOWT, 1W0X2). Collectively, BA lead and execute the following core activities in support of Air Force Core Functions:

2.1. Battlefield Airmen Core Activities:

- 2.1.1. Direct Action
- 2.1.2. Special Reconnaissance
- 2.1.3. Weather Planning and Operations
- 2.1.4. Personnel Recovery/Material Recovery Operations
- 2.1.5. Hostage Rescue and Personnel/Material Recovery
- 2.1.6. Counterterrorism
- 2.1.7. Foreign Internal Defense
- 2.1.8. Unconventional Warfare
- 2.1.9. Counterinsurgency
- 2.1.10. Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction
- 2.1.11. Joint Fires and Effects Integration
- 2.1.12. Security Force Assistance

2.2. More specifically, BA provide or enable the following specialized capabilities:

- 2.2.1. Reconnaissance and Surveillance
- 2.2.2. Environmental and Atmospheric Weather Operations
- 2.2.3. Terminal Attack Control
- 2.2.4. Preparation of the Environment
- 2.2.5. Command and Control
- 2.2.6. Specialized Air Mobility
- 2.2.7. Strike, Post Strike Reconnaissance, and Battle Damage Assessment
- 2.2.8. Sensitive Material Recovery and Destruction
- 2.2.9. Technical Rescue and Recovery Operations

**3. Policy.** The Air Force will continue to organize, train, and equip BA to conduct operations in contested, denied, operational limited, and permissive environments under any environmental conditions. Given the dynamic nature of special operations, BA who conduct special operations will be specifically trained and equipped to do so.

3.1. Organize: BA are organized and employed in force packages tailored to their individual mission area doctrine, operational nature, operating environment, and tactics, techniques and procedures (TTP).

3.2. Train: Training of BA is accomplished via individual AFSC curriculums tailored to the specialized missions of each functional area. Commonalities in individual BA training will be identified for inclusion in a shared training program designed to efficiently provide specialized instruction and prepare BA candidates for follow-on training and the rigorous nature of BA surface operations. BA training will prepare BA to perform the missions they are required to conduct IAW the National Military Strategy, the Joint Strategic Capabilities Plan, applicable Operational Plans, and Designed Operational Capability statements.

3.3. Equip: BA require a broad spectrum of specialized equipment items: individual equipment (clothing and protective gear), common equipment (i.e., weapons, airborne, amphibious, SCUBA, communications, and vehicles) and mission equipment (i.e., targeting, reconnaissance, meteorological, explosives, medical, and rescue). BA equipment must be lightweight, ruggedized, interoperable and functional in all environmental conditions.

**4. Roles and Responsibilities.** The following responsibilities and authorities are established:

4.1. HQ USAF/A3 will:

4.1.1. Develop and publish BA policy in coordination with lead Major Commands (MAJCOMs).

4.1.2. Provide capabilities-based reviews of MAJCOM requirements and coordinate with AFMC and lead MAJCOMs to align developmental and programming initiatives within the Program Objective Memorandum (POM).

4.1.3. Provide Air Force Corporate oversight of organization, equipping, training and utilization of BA.

4.2. Lead MAJCOMs for respective BA capabilities will lead the development and publishing of TTPs. Lead MAJCOMs for TTPs are delineated as follows:

4.2.1. Air Combat Command is lead MAJCOM for Joint Fires Integration, Close Air Support, Terminal Attack Control, Personnel Recovery, and TACP integration with conventional US and Multinational ground forces.

4.2.2. Air Force Special Operations Command is lead MAJCOM for Small Unmanned Aerial Systems, Sensitive Material Recovery and Destruction, Explosive Breaching, Preparation of the Environment, and Reconnaissance and Surveillance.

4.2.3. Air Force Materiel Command is the lead MAJCOM for capabilities development and full life-cycle acquisition management of equipment items to ensure interoperability of common use BA equipment and capitalization on opportunities for synergies across BA mission areas.

4.3. MAJCOMs with assigned BA forces will organize, train, and equip sufficient BA to meet Unit Type Code requirements to accomplish missions in support of CCDR objectives.

4.4. Air Education & Training Command will optimize BA institutional training to meet validated service requirements in compliance with AFSC-specific CFETPs. Emphasis will be on developing courses that leverage commonalities of training across the BA mission areas.

LISA S. DISBROW  
Acting Secretary of the Air Force

## Attachment 1

## GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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***Abbreviations and Acronyms***

**AFSC**—Air Force Specialty Code

**ALO**—Air Liaison Officer

**BA**—Battlefield Airmen

**C2**—Command and Control

**CCT**—Combat Control Team

**CFETP**—Career Field Education and Training Plan

**CRO**—Combat Rescue Officer

**DOC**—Designed Operational Capability

**HAF**—Headquarters Air Force

**HQ**—Headquarters

**IAW**—In accordance with

**MAJCOM**—Major Command

**PJ**—Pararescueman

**POM**—Program Objective Memorandum

**PR**—Personnel Recovery

**SCUBA**—Self-contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus

**SOWT**—Special Operations Weather Team

**STO**—Special Tactics Officer

**TACP**—Tactical Air Control Party

**TTP**—Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures

**UTC**—Unit Type Code